

# MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP

## Organizing Strategies (II)

Dear Murphy Students:

We are now in the final month of the Fall semester – which, again, means Final Papers and Projects. In the past, we offered two ways to organize your papers: *chronologically* and *thematically*.

This week's tip will offer you one *more* strategy for organizing.

### Simple to Complex

Strong (and interesting) academic papers are complex: this is one reason they tend to be long since you need a lot of space to make your points.

One pitfall, however, is trying to jump *right into the complexity*:

Instead – begin with *simple* concepts and ideas and *build up to the complex ideas*

### For example:

Start by

- Defining key words
- Explaining important events
- Giving relevant background
- Describing the problem(s)

Then go through your points, step-by-step, until you are ready to get to your most complex ideas.

### For example:

Instead of first explaining why a mental health stigma has divided a community, you can (if allowed):

- Define “Mental Health” [**most simple**]
- Define “Stigma”
- Explain Common mental health stigmas
- Mention the mental health stigmas of a chosen community
- Explain how these stigmas affect different sub-groups in the community
- Explain why these stigmas have divided the chosen community [**complex**]
- Offer recommendations [**often complex**]

**\*\*It helps to go backward.** Think about your most complex idea(s) and ask yourself:

- What should my readers know to understand this?
- What should I define or explain first?
- What would be the *easiest thing* for my readers to understand? What's the next?

### Sign Up for a One-On-One Tutoring Session

1. Visit <https://murphy.mywconline.net/>
2. [Register for an account](#)
3. Log in and select the “Writing Support (All Campuses)” calendar.
4. Choose any of the available white rectangles.
5. Fill out the form with your assignment info.

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If you have questions or want to put this into practice, feel free to contact me! 😊